

Document Control

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Version Control

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0.1	Draft	Initial Document	28-Jun-2021	Steering Committee
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0.5	Draft	Proofreading	22-Jul-2021	External & Steering Committee
1.0	Approved	Steering Committee approval and officer signatures	23-Jul-2021	Steering Committee

Constitution of Rise

This is the constitution of Rise (a Company Limited by Guarantee) hereinafter referred to as 'the Party'. It may be necessary to revisit all parts of this constitution as time passes, and amendments to the constitution will be made via a ballot of the membership either at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting (AGM or EGM).

1. Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 Our aim is to be a people driven political party.
- 1.2 We will field candidates in local and national elections in England, Scotland, and Wales.
- 1.3 Our objectives are to change the political landscape, to achieve electoral reform and to promote an equitable society for all people.

2. Membership

- 2.1 Membership of the Party is open to anyone over 14 years of age.
- 2.2 Membership commences when the application is approved by our membership secretary.
- 2.3 Members of the Party have full voting rights in internal elections, on the one member one vote principle.
- 2.4 A monthly membership fee of £2 minimum is payable.
- 2.5 We will review payment methods to take account of new methods of payment which may

become available in the future.

- 2.6 A register of members will be retained by the membership secretary in secure electronic form, in line with the principles of GDPR. The Party is registered with the Office of the Information Commissioner (Registration No ZB137091) and the regulations pertaining to data protection will be strictly observed.

3. Ceasing to be a member

- 3.1 Membership of the Party ceases in one of the following ways.
- 3.2 Through formal resignation, submitted to and actioned by the membership secretary, with formal receipt notified to the member concerned.
- 3.3 Through non-payment of the monthly membership fee, after six calendar months, or annually. Thereafter a membership is assumed to have lapsed and the final decision rests with the committee or with the membership secretary.
- 3.4 Through expulsion from the Party following the outcome of the disciplinary procedure (see [section 4](#)).

4. Disciplinary Procedure

- 4.1 Disciplinary sanctions available to the Party include issuing a formal, or final written warning, suspension or in extreme cases, expulsion from the Party.
- 4.2 In the event of an extreme decision to expel a member from the Party, it will have been decided upon after an investigation has taken place and the member concerned will have been afforded the opportunity to state their case. Any mitigating circumstances will also be duly considered.
- 4.3 The investigation will be undertaken by a member's jury if resolution efforts fail, there will be a right of appeal. The outcome of such decisions will be made known in writing (sent electronically). A postal version will be available on request.
- 4.4 This right of appeal is an important part of this process. Clear grounds for appeal must be submitted by email or in writing. It will not be sufficient to say, 'I wish to appeal'.
- 4.5 Two members of the Party will then hear the appeal and the outcome will be made known in writing or sent electronically after due consideration of the facts. There will be no further right of appeal.
- 4.6 Any proceedings against a member will commence within 7 days and aim to be concluded within 3 months where possible.
- 4.7 Members will be allocated an independent advocate to represent their interests.
- 4.8 Actions that are subject to disciplinary action are fully detailed in the Party rulebook.

5. Committee & Organisation

- 5.1 An interim steering committee will be established to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Party. It is intended that; all positions will be elected by the membership a ballot held every four years.
- 5.2 Additional members of the committee will be established, as and when the need is identified. This allows us to take advantage of opportunities afforded to us.
- 5.3 If only one person stands for election to a position, they will be deemed to have been elected unopposed.

- 5.4 The committee will meet no fewer than 12 times a year, and whenever necessary to ensure the smooth running of the Party. The following ways of working apply:
- i. Two weeks' notice will be given unless there is an immediate need for an emergency meeting in which case a minimum of 24 hours advance notice will be given.
 - ii. Reports and Documents relevant to an ordinary scheduled meeting must be submitted no later than 4 days prior to the meeting date.
 - iii. Late submission of documents for inclusion will mean they cannot be considered unless under exceptional circumstances, where a vote of the committee allows them to be considered.
 - iv. Any supporting documents for decisions to be made by the committee must be submitted 4 days prior to the meeting date.
 - v. Late or non-submission of minutes and applicable progress reports on 3 successive occasions by members of the committee, will result in them being deemed as having resigned from their position.
 - vi. A formal structure of reports and documents will be established and must be followed for inclusion in the meeting.
 - vii. The meeting agenda will be made available to all members of the Party 3 days in advance of the meeting to provide an opportunity for comment or to request changes.
 - viii. The meeting agenda and supporting documents will be issued to committee members 3 days in advance of the meeting. Committee members have 24 hours to request amendments.
 - ix. Minutes and Action Items resulting from the meeting will be made available to the membership within 7 days of the meeting taking place.
 - x. Only committee members attending a meeting can be allocated an Action Item.
- 5.5 Decisions taken at committee must be supported by a 2 thirds majority.
- 5.6 Committee members who do not attend three meetings without sending apologies for absence will be deemed to have resigned.
- 5.7 It is possible to 'job share' committee roles to spread the workload and encourage people to come forward and volunteer for roles within the Party.
- 5.8 Any expenses incurred while carrying out committee duties will be reimbursed subject to the Expenses Reimbursement Handbook.

6. Annual General Meeting (AGM) / Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM)

- 6.1 An AGM will take place both online and at a physical location.
- 6.2 The date and location of the AGM will be published no later than three months prior, to all members.
- 6.3 The quorum figure for both an AGM and an EGM is 15% of the total membership.
- 6.4 The committee will present an annual report.
- 6.5 An EGM will be called by the Secretary at the request of the membership. Details of the process can be found in the Party rulebook.
- 6.6 The EGM will take place within twenty-one days of the request.
- 6.7 All members will be given one weeks' notice of an EGM.

7. Finance

- 7.1 All payments will be approved by at least three signatories, one of whom will be the treasurer.
- 7.2 Signatories must not be related or be members of the same household.
- 7.3 All expenditure must follow the Party approval process.
- 7.4 Receipts of income and expenditure will be maintained by the treasurer and a financial statement will be provided at each meeting. This would include, but not be limited to the monthly bank statements.
- 7.5 All monies given to, or raised by, the Party are only to be used for party purposes.
- 7.6 Separate funds are to be retained for the purposes of campaigning for elections – notably for parliamentary electoral deposits.


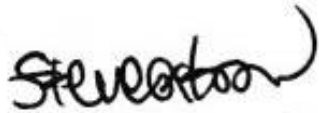


8. Changes to our Constitution

- 8.1 Amendments to the constitution may only be made at the AGM or at an EGM.
- 8.2 Any proposal to amend the constitution must be provided to the Secretary in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of meeting.
- 8.3 Any proposal to amend the constitution will require a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

9. Dissolution

- 9.1 Should the Party be dissolved, all remaining funds and other assets, post settlement of outstanding debts will be donated to another organisation with similar aims.
- 9.2 In the event of insolvency of the Party, the liability of the directors is limited to £1 per director. The members have no financial liability.

10. Officer Approvals

Leader:  Rhea Barnes Date: 09-Aug-2021	Treasurer:  Stephen Oxbrow Date: 09-Aug-2021
Campaigns officer:  Neil Aldridge Date: 09-Aug-2021	Nominating officer:  Neil Aldridge Date: 09-Aug-2021